

Message Text

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21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 071605Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1119

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5598

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR YO

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT ON POSSIBLE US ARMS SUPPLIES

REF: STATE 243336

1. FSFA NORTH AMERICA DEPT DIRECTOR STARCEVIC TODAY ASKED DCM ABOUT WASHINGTON POST STORY ON ARMS SUPPLIES TO YUGOSLAVIA (REFTEL). HE SAID STORY WAS "NOT FAIR". AS WE KNEW, MATTER OF ARMS SUPPLIES WAS NOT DISCUSSED BY TITO AND YUGOSLAVS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY MATTER WAS REVEALED TO PRESS IN THIS WAY. HE THEN ALLEGED THAT WASHINGTON POST HAS SOMETHING AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA.

2. WARMING SOMEWHAT TO HIS SUBJECT, STARCEVIC THEN NOTED RECENT ARTICLES BY BALTIMORE SUN CORRESPONDENT PARKS, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING HIS ALLEGATION THAT SIX SOVIET DIVISIONS PREPARED TO INTERVENE IN YUGOSLAVIA. WHILE THEY RESPECT BALTIMORE SUN, YUGOSLAVS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND PARKS' CONSISTENT IRRESPONSIBLE REPORTING WHICH, HE SAID, IS IN INTEREST OF NEITHER YUGOSLAVIA NOR US.

3. DCM REPLIED THAT WE WERE UNAWARE OF SOURCE OF WASHINGTON POST STORY AND THAT REPORT, OF COURSE, HAD NOT ORIGINATED IN BELGRADE. RE PARKS, HE MERELY NOTED THAT USG COULD NOT CONTROL WHAT AMERICAN
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CORRESPONDENTS WRITE.

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Message Attributes

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